

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR/Karelo-Finnish SSR) REPORT [REDACTED] 25X1

SUBJECT Supply of Food and Consumers' Goods in the Estonian and Karelo-Finnish SSR's DATE DISTR. 13 May 1955 25X1

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DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The food supply in the Estonian SSR, although not uniform throughout the country, has been satisfactory during recent years. Tallinn, followed by Tartu and the other large cities, is best supplied with food. The situation is worst in rural areas, from which practically all of the local production is exported to Tallinn, Leningrad, and the interior of the Soviet Union. Canned goods are apparently seldom distributed in rural localities. 25X1
2. Meat and fats still appear only sporadically in State stores. Queues are often formed as early as two o'clock in the morning when these commodities become available. The kolkhoz markets, which are allowed to set their own prices, always have supplies of meat, fats, and milk, but charge exorbitant rates.
3. The food supply in the Karelo-Finnish SSR, as well as in several other Soviet republics, is much worse than in Estonia. Excepting potatoes and some very expensive canned fish goods, there was hardly anything to buy in Petrozavodsk during the winter and spring of 1953 - 1954. Even the kolkhoz markets had little to offer. The best supplied localities within the USSR are Moscow and Leningrad. As late as 1950, many residents of Leningrad traveled to Tallinn to purchase food, but the situation has changed rapidly since then.
4. Following is a list of food prices prevailing in the Estonian SSR in May 1954, with some comparative prices paid in Leningrad during the same month.

Item	Price(in rubles)	Unit	Comments
Beef and pork	15 to 25	1 kg	[REDACTED] 25X1
Beef and pork	20 to 35	1 kg	On the market.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Butter	26 to 29	1 kg	In stores in Leningrad; three qualities.
Butter	35 to 45	1 kg	On the market in Tallinn; price depended on supply.
Sausage	16 to 45	1 kg	In stores in Leningrad; price depended on quality.
Sausage	35 to 45	1 kg	In stores in Tallinn; price depended on quality.
Brisling	12		In stores; sold in cans of about 300 grams.
Fresh fish	15 to 25	1 kg	In stores; most of the supply was flown to Moscow.
Granulated sugar	8.3	1 kg	In stores.
Lump sugar	12	1 kg	In stores.
Wheat flour	4 to 6	1 kg	Price depended on quality.
Coffee	90 to 100	1 kg	In stores.
Tea	50 to 60	1 kg	
Fine salt	3	1 kg	In stores.
Potatoes	.9	1 kg	In stores.
Potatoes	1 to 2	1 kg	On the market.
Macaroni	10	1 kg	In stores.
Eggs	1 to 2	1	On the market.
Milk	2 to 3.5	1 l.	On the market.

5. The supply of manufactured goods has improved during recent years.   Czech fabrics have appeared on the market and have been in great demand because of their superior quality, in spite of the fact that prices were considerably higher than those for domestic materials. Domestic types of good quality footwear were occasionally obtainable but were not as popular as the rarely seen Czech shoes.
6. New automobiles are sold only through an organization in Tallinn, and there is a waiting period of about two years for Moskvich and Pobeda models. The prospective purchaser or his agent, registered as such before a notary, is required to visit the sales office daily for the last two months of the waiting period (sic). If the purchaser fails to appear during one day, his name is removed from the waiting list.
7. Following are the prices of some manufactured goods available in the Estonian SSR:

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Cotton Material	7 to 20	1 m	Domestic; a good supply.
Wool material	500	1 m	Foreign; limited supply.

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Ladies' dresses	2,000	1	Best quality, tailor-made.
Ready-made suits	500	1	Plain, not 100 percent wool.
Ready-made suits	1,200	1	Better quality domestic wool.
Suit material	250	1 m	Domestic wool.
Overcoat material	415	1 m	Domestic wool, not color-fast.
Man's shirt	120 to 130		Best quality, <u>Kayron</u> .
Man's shoes	200 to 450	1 pr	Czechoslovakian.
Man's shoes	60	1 pr	Domestic, cloth with rubber soles.
Radio apparatus	750	1	Estonian local receiver, type Ret (sic).

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